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REPORTS 28 SOVIET DIVISIONS, 9 AIR SQUADRONS IN EAST GERMANY

Berlin, 28 February (TT-Reuters) -- The USSR now has 620,000 men and 860 aircraft stationed in East Germany, according to the West Berlin newspaper Der Abend (formerly US-licensed). The paper cites reports from sources close to the Soviet Control Commission and states that the troops are organized into 28 divisions and nine air squadrons. These figures are said to exceed the highest ever quoted in the Western press, which gives only 22 divisions in the Soviet Zone.

In the opinion of West Berlin press circles, the above information stemmed from a person who had deserted from the Soviet Control Commission.

According to Der Abend, of the 28 divisions stationed in East Germany, 11 are armored divisions, 14 are motorized infantry divisions, one a paratrooper division, and the remaining two Soviet Army elite divisions, completely motorized and equipped with the finest and most modern weapons.

The air force, with its nine air squadrons, consists of 340 jet aircraft and 280 of the most modern bembers. Five of the squadrons are stationed in the military maneuver area 120 kilometers south of Berlin, and two are stationed on the Baltic coast near the Polish boundary. The two remaining squadrons are concentrated in the area around Berlin, Der Abend states.

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